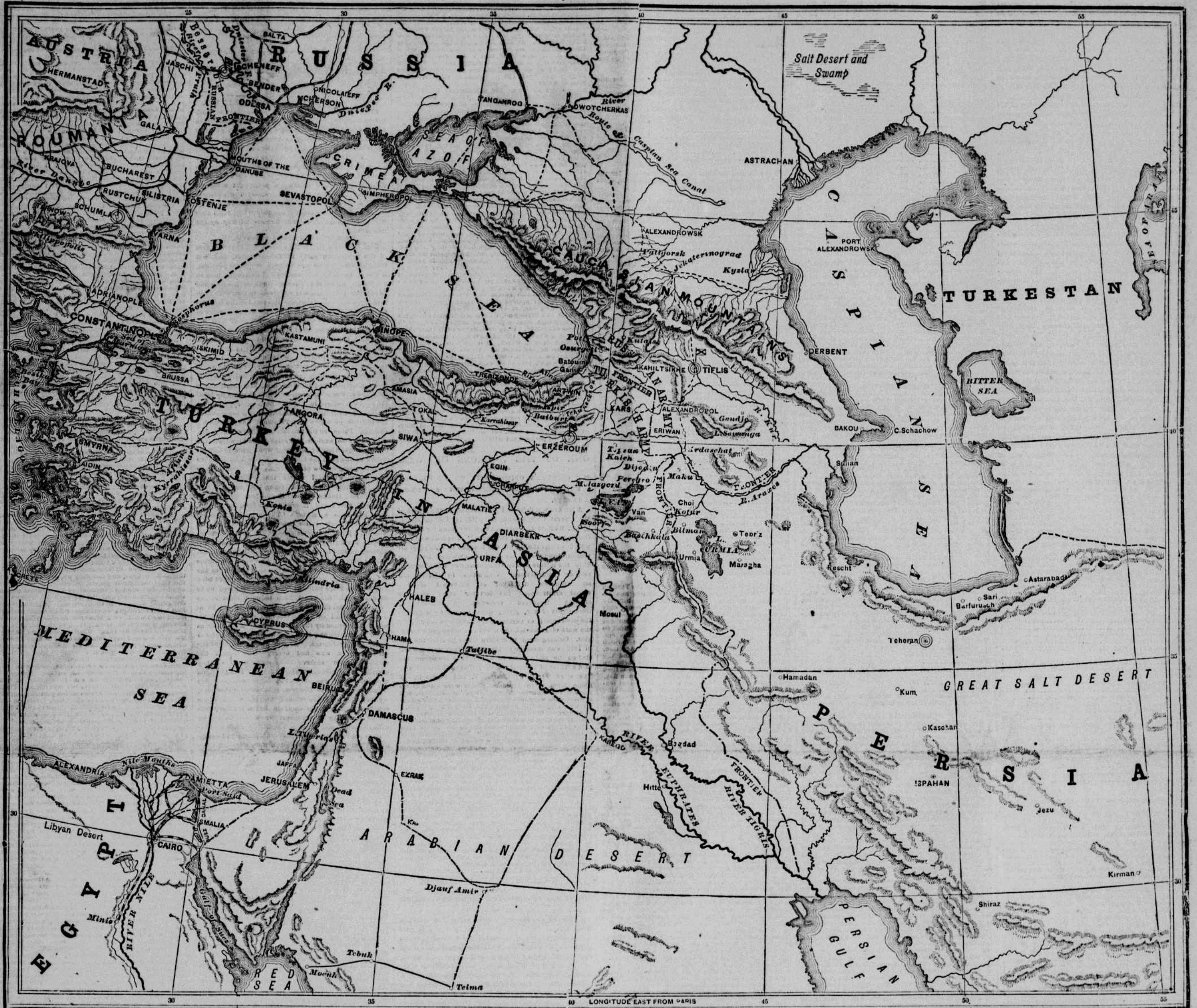


THE RUSSIAN ADVANCE INTO ASIA MINOR.

Map of Asiatic Turkey, Western Persia and the Black Sea, Showing the Relative Positions of the Russian and Turkish Forces on the Caucasian Frontier and the Chief Fortified Positions in Turkish Territory.



MARCHING FROM THE CAUCASUS.

The Russian Advance from Tiflis Into Asia Minor.

LINE OF ATTACK.

Objective Points of the Columns of Invasion.

KARS, ERZEROU AND TREBISOND.

The Persian Army Protecting the Russian Flank and Rear.

TURKISH DEFENSIVE POSITIONS.

The Black Sea Lines of Supply Necessary.

Simultaneously with the passage of the Pruth by the Russian columns from Kischineff the Army of the Caucasus has crossed the frontier of Turkey in Asia from its headquarters at Tiflis. Thus Turkish territory is invaded at two points widely distant from each other, but bearing an equally important relation to the general plan of operations. The Russian army of the Caucasus is composed of the best troops in the service of the Czar. The province having been only a few years, comparatively speaking, under Russian rule, the occupation by Russian troops has continued to be on a war footing. The garrisons of the several fortresses have been maintained at their full effective strength, and the officers and men trained to constant vigilance and activity. Although numerically weaker than the Army of the Pruth, or, as it should now be termed, the Army of the Danube, that of the Caucasus is stronger in material, and is, therefore, proportionately more effective. It strikes at a part of the Sultan's dominions that is distant from the centre of government and supplies, and in its attack threatens, if possible, more serious injury to his empire than even the advance into the

Dobrujska, because it is more out of the way of any material aid reaching his armies from allies. It is further supported and covered by a considerable force of Persians, who serve the purpose of protecting the Russian communications from interruption by the Arab tribes subject to Turkey, and of rendering the sending of any aid overland from British India a very hazardous and doubtful enterprise. The Persian troops further relieve a large Russian force that should otherwise be left to perform this service, and enable it to operate offensively with the main army against the Turks. Further, the Russians move to the attack from well fortified positions on the immediate frontier, and thus have their base of supplies immediately in their rear well protected and supplied from a vast territory behind them.

THE TURKISH POSITION. The Turks occupy a large territory, broken by numerous mountain chains and intersected by many rivers. Their chief places of strength are distant from the frontier, for, with the exception of Kars, they have no fortress nearer to that line than Erzeroum, which is the headquarters of the army of defence. They have, it is true, a means of communication and supply by sea to Trebizond, which the Russians do not possess, on account of their naval inferiority in the Black Sea, but this port is actually threatened now by the Russian advance, and should it fall all the eastern section of Asia Minor must draw its supplies from Sinope or overland from ports in the Levant. Still acting on the defensive it must be remembered that the Turks have a vast area of friendly territory behind them, and the very difficulties they have to contend against in transporting supplies will also present themselves to the invaders. The broken country will afford the Turks many opportunities of checking the Russian advance, or causing it to be so costly in men that immense military successes will be necessary to counterbalance the losses. The map of Asia Minor and the Black Sea published to-day gives the reader an exact idea of the relative positions of the contending armies, and shows at a glance the difficulties of the situation.

PLAN OF THE RUSSIAN ATTACK. It has been evident from the commencement of hostilities that the Russian advance has two objective points. The first is Erzeroum, a position which, if occupied, would give the invaders control of all the territory southward to Lake Wan, or at least to the Valley of the Euphrates, and northward to the coast near Trebizond. The second point of attack is Trebizond, which, as before stated, controls the line of supply by sea to the Turkish army. The advance on Erzeroum involves the investment and capture of the fortified town of Kars, which, it will be remembered, once successfully resisted a Russian attack during the early part of the Crimean war. Kars will again resist stoutly, but it is possible that, instead of waiting for its capture, the main body of the Russian force may

ing in that direction will pass it by, leaving a strong detachment to prosecute the siege and press on toward Erzeroum. Already the Russians have started on this plan of operations from Alexandropol, a fortified Russian town on the Arax, a branch of the Araxes. The advance on Trebizond has also commenced along the coast road via Batoum. The despatch from Hassan Pacha announcing a Russian repulse near that place shows that the invading army must have already passed Batoum and was not in force at the crossing of the river Tchirouk near Jund. The Turkish force that made this stand—if it did make it, which is yet somewhat doubtful—is evidently a part of the garrison of Trebizond sent forward to dispute the way on the line of the river. Assuming, then, that the Russians succeeded in reaching Trebizond and Erzeroum in sufficient force to hold the country the observation of the first named and the capture of the second is necessary to their further progress. If Erzeroum is taken the Turks will probably retire on Sebasteia, Kharabassar and Egin. Toward the first to cover the road to Sinope, and the second to resist a Russian concentration of a large force that would threaten to cut off the whole of Kurdistan from communication with the western territory and render probable a severance of Asia Minor from the Arabian section of the Ottoman dominions. This, however, can only be accomplished with an immense force and an uninterrupted series of victories over the Turks, who will doubtless stubbornly defend every inch of ground if they are forced to retire.

THE TURKISH DEFENCE. This would seem to resolve itself at present into a simple resistance at every point of vantage. But there are possibilities which are decidedly favorable to Turkey if her army is handled with skill. If, for instance, she garrisons Kars, Erzeroum and Trebizond with sufficient forces to hold these positions, and then masses her field army at Egin, Chirpuk and Diarbekir, or behind the Euphrates in their vicinity, the Russian army will scarcely dare to hazard an advance westward with such a hostile force threatening its line of retreat. Then, by the concentration of all the Arab and other cavalry that could be spared in the direction of Wan, a check would be given to the Persian troops and the Russian communications would be threatened close to their own frontier. It will be observed that as far westward as Egin, all the river valleys and mountain chains lie in the direction of the Russian advance, affording favorable routes in nearly all cases. From Egin westward the physical conditions of the country change. The rivers and mountain chains run across the line of Russian progress, and every ridge becomes a natural fortress that can be defended without much cost.

THE TURKISH FLEET. By their fleet the Turks control the Black Sea and compel their enemy to transport his supplies over long

and difficult routes to the scene of operations. So long as this naval supremacy continues so long will the Russian advance in Asia Minor be an undertaking of difficulty and danger that can only be made successful by overwhelming numbers. The landing of a large British force at Sinope or even Trebizond would complicate matters very seriously for Russia, and would probably turn the scales against her. Already the bombardment of Poti by the Turkish fleet shows how clearly is perceived the importance of inflicting damage on the Russian ports early in the war, and how seriously the Russian operations will be affected thereby. If the Army of the Caucasus succeeds in its proposed object of seizing the neck of territory between the Levant and the Black Sea, and establishing itself firmly thereon, a large proportion of the military resources of Turkey will be cut off from Constantinople, and the empire of the Ottomans will be ground to dust between two military millstones.

THE RUSSIAN FLEET.

They took in coal all yesterday morning on board the Russian flagship Svetlana, and the quarterdeck was decidedly wet yesterday afternoon, for it required a good deal of washing to get rid of the coal dust which found lodgment everywhere. Consul General Rodisco went on board the Svetlana in the forenoon. At half-past twelve Captain Hia Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Alexis came on shore unaccompanied by the foot of Twenty-third street. At half-past one P. M. the regular trip boat arrived from the Svetlana, having on board Sub-Lieutenant Hia Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Constantine, Lieutenant Baron Engelhardt, Prince Stecheroff, Prince Baratsky, Lieutenants de Sievers and Wainkine and other officers of the flagship. Shortly after, at about two o'clock, the Admiral's light zig reached the landing stage, having on board Admiral Bontoukoff, Flag Commander Alexieff and Consul General Rodisco. A party of ladies and gentlemen, invited guests, visited the Svetlana in the afternoon. His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Constantine and a number of his brother officers returned to the ship at half-past four P. M. His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Alexis returned to the Svetlana after nightfall, having passed the afternoon and evening quietly in the city.

THE CUBAN LEAGUE.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Cuban League of the United States was held yesterday afternoon at the office of Major General C. K. Graham, No. 221 Broadway, at which Colonel Lopez de Queralt, one of "our boys in blue," and formerly on the staff of General John Cochrane, in the Sixth Army Corps, was present. The Colonel, it may be mentioned, has recently distinguished himself greatly in "Cuba Libre," notably at the capture and destruction of the city of Las Tunas. The Executive Committee organized under the presidency of General McMahon, and appointed a committee of six, of which President McMahon and the Secretary were to be members, to take such steps as they may deem proper in aid of the Cuban cause. The following gentlemen were appointed:—Major

General C. K. Graham, Charles Watrous, Thomas S. Stewart, Colonel J. M. Macias, Douglas Taylor and J. H. Van Allen. A committee was also appointed to prepare a memorial to Congress and an address to the people of the United States in behalf of the Cuban Republic. Its members are Mr. Charles A. Dana, Major J. M. Bundy and Mr. Elihu Allen. At the close of the meeting Colonel de Queralt stated to the Herald reporter:—"Our prospects in Cuba were never better than now. We have an army of 15,000 men and twice that number ready to take up arms when opportunity offers. Our army is well clothed and in excellent spirits. We have lost at least 30,000 men since the beginning of the fight for independence in 1895. Our soldiers have penetrated to Maricao, less than one hundred miles from Havana. The Spanish army has 80,000 regulars and 40,000 volunteers. In that army there are thousands of boys of seventeen years of age, who are unable to stand long marches in a tropical climate. The Spanish troops are sadly demoralized. Within the last two months the patriots have destroyed \$700,000 worth of plantations."

DANGEROUS KNOWLEDGE.

Mrs. Loretta Ryer, of No. 323 West Thirty-second street, lost a pair of diamond earrings in a Broadway car last Monday. She advertised for them in the morning papers the following day. On Tuesday an elegant looking young gentleman called on her, and after introducing himself as Mr. Frank Crawford, of No. 214 East Seventy-sixth street, said that he had seen the advertisement, and knew where the diamonds were. Mr. Crawford was very bland and very polite, but he wanted \$50 down before he would give any further information. He called again, according to agreement, on Thursday and then wanted Mrs. Ryer to give him a check payable in five days for \$100, saying that in the intervening time he would be able to procure her diamonds. Mrs. Ryer, however, had communicated with the police and after young Crawford had concluded his second visit he was arrested by Officer Schmitt, a member of the Twenty-ninth precinct. He was arraigned before Judge Murray yesterday, and was held in \$2,000 bail to answer on a charge of attempting to obtain money by trick and device. It was discovered by the officer that one of the lost diamonds had been found by a boy named William White, of No. 115 West street, who deposited it with a jeweler in Nassau street, and that this fact had come to the knowledge of the prisoner.

THE POYNZ MURDER TRIAL.

The case of Mrs. Evans, indicted with her husband, Nathaniel Evans, for murder in the first degree, in killing Thomas J. Poyntz, of Bay Shore, on Sunday night, the 25th of January, was called yesterday morning in the Suffolk County Court and Term, before Judge Pratt. Judge Pratt, of course, for Mrs. Evans, presented an affidavit made by her in support of a motion for a postponement, alleging the absence of important testimony as a reason why the trial should not proceed. District Attorney Wickham had no objection to interpose, and the cases of both Mrs. Evans and her husband were set down for the October term.

THE GERONA'S COLLISION.

The damages inflicted on the brig Cadet by being run into by the Spanish frigate Gerona, off Sandy Hook, last Saturday, are to be made good by the Spanish Government. A survey will be sent to-day on the Cadet, by representatives of the Board of Underwriters, to decide what repairs are necessary. It is thought, however, that \$1,000 will cover the damages.

THE BELLIGERENT NAVIES.

Iron-clad Leviathans of England, Turkey and Russia.

ARMAMENT, HORSE POWER AND TONNAGE.

Relative Strength in Ships Adapted for Black Sea Operations.

RAMS, MONITORS AND POPOFFKAS.

The Unarmored Ships of the Three Powers.

CRUISERS AND COMMERCE DESTROYERS.

The naval arm is certain to perform an important part in determining the fortune of the coming war in Europe. Owing to the peculiar conditions that govern the organization of the belligerent Powers, the distance that one of them at least is from the seat of actual conflict, and the interests, commercial and military, that need protection on the sea and along the coast, the necessity for armed fleets to menace the enemy and convey supply ships and transports is equally imperative for Russia, Turkey and England. Therefore, in considering the relative naval strength of the belligerents it is necessary to examine all the conditions calculated to enhance or decrease the power of each nation, not only to maintain itself on the sea, but also to inflict as much damage as possible on the enemy. These may be said to be embraced under four general heads—namely, the naval strength in its number of armed ships; the strength represented by the superiority and adaptability of the vessels, without reference to their number; the possibility of maintaining a naval force for a given object and the particular purpose for which a fleet is to be employed in this war.

COMPARATIVE NUMERICAL STRENGTH. England, beyond all question, possesses a fleet of war ships which cannot be excelled in numerical strength by the combined fleets of all the other powers.